

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 11-20 have been amended for clarity. New claims 21-34 are directed to further patentable subject matter of this invention.

Claims 11-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Park (US 6,160,840) in view of Yi (US 5,978,365). To the extent that these references may be applied against the amended and new claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Applicants note that there is no motivation for combining Park and Yi because Park relates to recovering code by puncturing, whereas Yi relates to a soft handoff operation that does not involve rate matching. Thus, those skilled in the art would not have been led to modify the teachings of Park with those of Yi, to obtain the present claimed invention.

Even more importantly, even if Park and Yi were combined, their combined teachings still would not achieve the present claimed invention. Park merely discloses puncturing after interleaving and repetition before interleaving. Yi discloses puncturing after interleaving, but does not disclose repetition after interleaving.

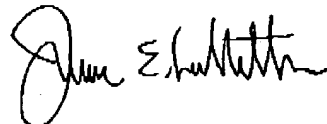
In contrast, each of the pending claims implements rate matching employing repeating a part of bits interleaved by an

interleaver. This subject matter has an advantage of providing enhanced resistance to burst error and improved communication quality, as discussed at page 5, line 9 et seq. of the present specification. As noted above, the combined disclosures of Park and Yi lack the subject matter of repeating after interleaving, and there is no hint or suggestion of this subject matter in either reference.

Thus, it is submitted that all pending claims are allowable over the individual or combined disclosures of the applied references. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain that may best be addressed through a telephone communication, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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